

largely from pamphlets, addresses, case notes, and conversations, thrown together without the slightest serious attempt at arrangement or sequence. And this strangely heterogeneous collection is not improved by being interlarded with texts and sensational headlines. Whilst containing something of interest, the book, as a whole, is decidedly disappointing and nauseous.

A. F. TREDGOLD.

Local Government Board. *Fortieth Annual Report, 1910-1911.* Wyman & Son; 1s. 2d.

From this report we learn that the mean number of paupers of all classes relieved in England and Wales during the year ending Ladyday, 1911, was 886,177. This represents a decrease of 3·3 per cent. on the average of the previous year, and is equal to 24·8 per 1,000 of population.

Although there has been an actual increase in the number of paupers of all classes since 1887 (the figures being 822,215 on 1st January, 1887, against 891,807, on 1st January last), yet there is a considerable decrease in relation to population. In 1887 the number stood at 28·9 per 1,000 of the population against 24·8 in 1910. Moreover, when the great increase in the number of the insane is allowed for, the decrease in ordinary pauperism is clearly shown. The following table may help us to realise this,

	January, 1887.	January, 1911.
Indoor Paupers: Men	72,501	124,259
Women	51,542	74,146
Children	55,472	71,286
Outdoor Paupers: Men	97,517	84,728
Women	255,784	225,836
Children	214,234	183,289
Casual Paupers	5,026	10,474
Insane Paupers	72,488	120,968
Per 1,000 of population all classes	28·9	24·8

Eugenists will notice the enormous increase in Lunacy and in the number of casuals. The latter is very significant, and with regard to the former it must be remembered that the figures deal with *pauper* lunatics only.

How were these figures influenced by Old Age Pensions? The total number of Pensions payable in England and Wales on 31st March, 1911 was 613,873. During the four weeks ending 28th January, 1911, 122,415 persons ceased to be chargeable to the Poor Rate and became Old Age Pensioners, 35,437 men and 86,978 women; 117,338 from outdoor paupers and 5,077 from indoor paupers. Unfortunately the report does not tell us the number of those who subsequently abandoned their pension and returned to the Poor Law.

With regard to the able-bodied, the report states that "of the adult indoor paupers, excluding casuals and insane, relieved on July 1st, 1910, only 9·5 per cent. were described as healthy able-bodied, and of those relieved on January 1st, 1911, only 11·8 per cent. were so described."

Nearly two-thirds of the total number (about 70,000) of indoor pauper children were relieved in institutions other than the workhouse or infirmary. 725 boys and 586 girls left poor law schools to go to situations, 177 of the former into the Army or Navy, and 577 of the latter to domestic service.

790 persons were emigrated at a cost of £10,369.

On the financial side it appears that the cost of this service was £14,849,584, equal to 8s. 3½d. per head of population, and averaging £16 1s. 7½d. per pauper. The cost per head of population varied from 15s. 7½d. in London to 5s. 4½d. in Cumberland. Indoor paupers in London cost (average) £34 8s. 4d. and outside London £26 16s. 6d.

In the Metropolitan Asylums District 6843 imbeciles were maintained in 1910 against 6,907 in 1909, but fresh admissions numbered 913 in 1910, whereas in 1909 there were only 784.

In the reports of the Inspectors annexed there is little of eugenic interest. Mr. Duff, whose district comprises the greater part of five West Midland and North Western Counties, gives it as his opinion that "the present numbers in receipt of indoor relief are probably near the minimum and are not likely to be reduced substantially by any increase of trade or employment."

Again, Mr. W. D. Bushell of the S.E. district writes "It is difficult to see any solid foundation for a belief that any possible legislative change would render useless any buildings now necessary for the relief of the indoor poor."

The report as a whole bears testimony to the scope and activities of the English Poor Law. If it differs in any material respect from the thirty-nine previous reports it is in the hopeful prospect, conveyed (all too slightly) in the suggestion of combination for special purposes, that "at last some effort is being made to understand the nature of the broken and twisted human wreckage of which the great mass of permanent pauperism is composed."

E. J. LIDBETTER.

Richter, CLAIRE. *Nietzsche et les Théories biologiques contemporaines*.—Paris: Mercure de France; 1911; pp. 236; price 3fr. 50c.

SINCE the philosopher must base his speculations on the materials furnished by the positive sciences, it is always a question of some interest, in estimating the position of a philosophic thinker, to ascertain from what sources and in what form he obtained these scientific data for his doctrinal conceptions. This is what Mlle Claire Richter aims at doing for the apostle of the *Übermensch* in her interesting essay on the relation of Nietzsche's views to the biological theories of his time. Nietzsche, it is important to remember, never had the salutary discipline of a training in natural science, and, as it appears from his letters, he was himself so keenly sensible of the disadvantage under which he laboured by reason of this defect in his mental equipment, that even as late as 1882 he thought of making it good by several years' practical work in the schools of Paris or Vienna. It might be expected, therefore, that his views regarding biological problems should suffer from the lack of that grasp which only familiar contact with the realities of a science can give to the mind. And more than that, Mlle Richter tells us that his acquaintance with the theories which divided and still divide biological opinion seems, for the most part, to have been at second hand; he was not in personal contact with any of the greater scientists of his time, nor did he even learn their views directly from their own works. His presentation of these views, accordingly, does not show the clear apprehension which is apparent, for instance, in Schopenhauer's treatment of the theories of Cabanis and Bichat, or in Spencer's handling of the evolutionary hypothesis. On the contrary Nietzsche's ideas on many points of fundamental importance in biology are vague and shifting, and sometimes mutually contradictory; they are often more suggestive of the visions of a poet than of the clear conceptions of a systematic thinker. This characteristic makes it a matter of some difficulty to determine the philosopher's real attitude towards the different biological doctrines of his time, but Mlle Richter, by a careful scrutiny of his work, taken in connection with what is known of the sources of information which were accessible to him, has made out a fairly convincing case in support of her main thesis, which is, that the dominant influence in Nietzsche's thought was the transformism of Lamarck. It was to Lamarck that he was indebted for his conception of evolution, and for his corollary to that conception, his doctrine of the *Übermensch*; and his works also show, implicitly or explicitly, his acceptance of the definitely Lamarckian theories of adaptation to the environment